



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 1, 2007

CHDP Provider Information Notice: 07-06

TO: ALL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
PROGRAM PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRING KINDERGARTEN ORAL HEALTH
ASSESSMENTS BY A DENTAL PROFESSIONAL AND REMINDER FOR
AGE ONE DENTAL REFERRALS BY CHDP PROVIDERS

The purpose of this notice is to inform CHDP providers about new legislation requiring kindergarten oral health assessments by a dental professional; request that CHDP providers make a dental referral at kindergarten periodicity; and to remind providers to make dental referrals annually beginning at age one.

Background

Within 90 days after entrance into the first grade, every child/family shall provide a certificate to the school documenting that within the prior 18 months the child has received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services, or submit a waiver exempting child from this requirement.

CHDP requires a dental assessment during each CHDP health screening/evaluation. An annual referral to a dentist is recommended beginning at age one to establish a dental home. An annual referral is required at age three if not begun earlier. If a dental problem is detected or suspected a dental referral is required, regardless of age.

Legislation

New legislation, California Education Code, Section 49452.8, requires children to have their oral health assessed by a licensed dental professional (dentist or dental hygienist) by May 31 of their first year in public school, at kindergarten or first grade. Dental check-ups that have occurred in the previous 12 months prior to school entry meet this requirement. Parents or caregivers may sign a waiver if they are unable to get a dental check-up for their child.

Since an annual referral to a dentist is a part of the CHDP health assessment, this dental referral and subsequent exam will meet the new legislative requirement for those children entering school for the first time. Therefore, when doing the CHDP health assessment for school entry, please remember to check the routine referral box for dental on the PM 160 Confidential Screening/Billing Report form if no obvious decay is detected or suspected. If decay is detected or suspected, continue to indicate appropriately in the "02" box and list the classification of urgency in the "Comments" section of the form. A referral should be made to a dentist in either case.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your local CHDP office.

Original Signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.

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